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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/764,847	01/26/2004	Akira Onikubo	KIN97USA	9789
270	7590	09/30/2005	EXAMINER	
HOWSON AND HOWSON ONE SPRING HOUSE CORPORATION CENTER BOX 457 321 NORRISTOWN ROAD SPRING HOUSE, PA 19477			HUG, ERIC J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1731	

DATE MAILED: 09/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/764,847	Applicant(s) ONIKUBO ET AL.	
	Examiner Eric Hug	Art Unit 1731	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 July 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 5-7,9,11 and 16-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 5,6,9,16 and 18 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7,11,17 and 19-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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Response to Amendment

The following is in response to the amendment filed on July 15, 2005.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

1. Claims 19-22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claims contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

The claimed features of the opening ratio of the surface of the fabric being 50% or less, and the size of the openings surrounded by fibers being 0.03 cm² or less, are supported in the specification in paragraph [0058] only for the embodiment wherein a knitted layer is provided in the wet paper web contact side layer. Each of the claimed fabrics have a knitted layer located somewhere other than in the wet paper web contact side layer.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

2. Claims 7 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Penven (FR 2 727 442).

Penven discloses a blanket for the wet section of a papermaking machine having a woven base (1), a superimposed knitted layer (4), and a non-woven fibrous layer (7) needled therein. The knitted layer (4) is a three-dimensional structure with two parallel knitted surfaces (41, 42) parallel to the base layer (1). The surfaces (41, 42) are joined by yarns (43) at right angles to them. Figure 2 shows an embodiment whereby the knitted layer (4) is between two base layers (1' and 8).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

3. Claims 11 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Penven (FR 2 727 442) in view of Applicant's admission of prior art (instant specification, paragraph [0038]) pertaining to JP 02-229247 and JP 2001-234456 (English abstracts provided).

Penven discloses a blanket for the wet section of a papermaking machine having a woven base (1), a superimposed knitted layer (4) covered by a non-woven layer (7), with needle bonding to hold the layers together. The knitted layer (4) is a three-dimensional structure with two parallel knitted surfaces (41, 42) parallel to the base layer (1). The surfaces (41, 42) are

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joined by yarns (43) at right angles to them. Figures 1-3 show embodiments whereby the knitted layer is in contact with the base layer and on the paper side of the base layer. The open area of the knitted fabric is less than 50%. See page 7, line 33 to page 8, line 5. The three-dimensional structure of Figure 4 is disclosed as having less than 25% open area, and the structure of Figure 5 is disclosed as having greater than 25% open area.

Regarding claim 11 there is no apparent disclosure in Penven of the density of the knitted fabric. Regarding claim 23 there is no apparent disclosure in Penven of the size of the openings in the knitted fabric. However, it would be obvious to one skilled in the art to optimize the density and pore size of the knitted fabric in Penven in order to obtain the desired compression recovery and cushioning of the knitted fabric without adversely affecting the permeability of the felt. Applicant has disclosed well-known structures for the knitted fabric in paragraph [0038] as given by JP 02-229247 and JP 2001-234456. These structures match those of the knitted fabrics disclosed by Penven, thus it would be obvious to optimize the knitted structures of Penven accordingly to arrive at the present invention.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5, 6, 9, 16, and 18 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claims 5, 6, 9, and 16 are allowed, because the prior art does not disclose or suggest a press felt having a base body, a fibrous assembly, and the claimed three-dimensional knitted fabric, wherein the knitted fabric is provided at a distance from both the web contacting

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side and the machine contacting side and also is on the machine contacting surface side relative to the base body.

Claim 18 is allowed, because the prior art does not disclose or suggest a press felt comprising a base body, a fibrous assembly, and at least two of the claimed three-dimensional knitted fabrics, wherein each knitted fabric is provided at a distance from both the web contacting side and the machine contacting side and the base body is positioned between two of the knitted fabrics.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed July 15, 2005 have been fully considered.

The arguments and amendments to the claims have overcome the rejections over Best (US 6,811,849), Hauer (US 6,479,414), Dufour (US 4,856,562), set forth previously. New rejections based on Penven (FR 2727442) are set forth above.

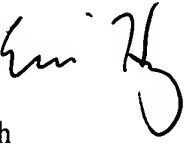
The allowability of claim 7 indicated previously has been withdrawn because of the embodiment of Figure 2 of Penven as described above.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Hug whose telephone number is 571 272-1192. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 571 272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


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